

Race Relations Group Broadens Focus as Unity and Diversity Committee



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News Release

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(Longview, TX) The City of Longview Partners in Prevention's Race Relations Committee has a new name, the Unity and Diversity Committee. Along with the new name, the committee adopted a new mission statement, which reads, "The Unity and Diversity Committee seeks to overcome barriers to the full inclusion of all community members by: protecting human rights, challenging discrimination, and celebrating diversity and commonality."

Keeta King, staff liaison to the Unity and Diversity Committee, said, "We are excited about our broadened mission statement and direction, as the Longview populace continues to diversify year after year and has evolved a great deal since the committee's beginning. While improving race relations is still a primary focus, the committee also recognizes other hurdles along the journey to community harmony and trust. With changes made, the committee hopes to diversify its membership to include community members of various racial, cultural, religious and social backgrounds to reflect the population dynamics of the community."

Committee History: The Race Relations Committee was formed in 1995 by community members concerned about the lack of open and honest dialogue about race relations in the Longview community. Members were committed to continuing critical examination of the state of race relations in the local community, state and nation.

Committee Events: The Unity and Diversity Committee hosts the annual Unity Honors Banquet highlighting notable members in the community who have demonstrated leadership in promoting racial harmony and understanding. The committee also hosts the annual Multicultural Festival, which allows thousands to come and celebrate the culturally diverse dynamic of Longview. The World Café, a small group format used as a platform for open, honest and civil conversation about important community issues, is hosted by the committee twice per year.

Committee Information: Committee meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 12:00 p.m. at the Longview Public Library, 222 W. Cotton St. If you would like more information about joining the Unity and Diversity Committee, please contact Keeta King at 903-237-1255 or kking@longviewtexas.gov [2] or visit the Partners in Prevention website at PIP.LongviewTexas.gov.

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